



Rockville Reports

MARCH 2015 • VOL. 61 #3

• A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE •

Mayor and Council Gathering Final Public Input on Pike Plan *Public Record to Close on March 6*

The Mayor and Council will hold a final public hearing on the Planning Commission's draft "Rockville's Pike Plan" on Thursday, March 5 at 7 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall.

The plan, which is being updated for the first time since 1989, establishes policies for land use, transportation, parks and other topics along a key two-mile stretch of the Pike corridor.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to hold a worksession on the Pike plan during their regular meeting on Monday, March 2. They are expected to hold additional worksessions in March as they finalize comments on the plan to send to the Planning Commission.

View detailed materials relating to the plan before each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter.

Hearings and worksessions, held on Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Nov. 17 and Dec. 8, and worksessions held on Feb. 12, 23 and 25, can be viewed by visiting www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter.

rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter and selecting the video icon next to each meeting date. The Feb. 25 meeting was a joint worksession with the Planning Commission.

Rockville 11 also recapped a Nov. 1 walking meeting with the Mayor and Council and community members in a segment available on the City's YouTube channel. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube and search for "Rockville Pike Walking Meeting."

To read the plan or its nine-page executive summary, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillespike. Hard copies are available for review at City Hall, the Rockville and Twinbrook libraries, and Rockville community centers.

Testimony for the public record may be sent through Friday, March 6, to the Mayor and Council at cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov, or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. ❖



MAYOR BRIDGET DONNELL NEWTON DELIVERED A STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS... *Community members, fellow elected officials and City staff attended the address, titled "Rockville: The City That Energizes," on Jan. 29 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. "The reason our state and our county are strong is because our cities — and especially the City of Rockville — are energy centers for commerce, innovation, education and transportation," Newton said. Find a transcript and video of the address at www.rockvillemd.gov/stateofthecity.*

Terrific Bikes Applications Due March 31

Rockville students in grades 1-3 can earn a free refurbished bike by doing good deeds in the community.

The Terrific Bikes program, run by the City of Rockville and Bikes for the World, is open to students in Rockville public or private schools or those who are home schooled.

Students must have a sponsor (such as a teacher or relative), and complete six responsible acts, such as perfect school attendance for one month or volunteering at a charitable organization for an hour.

Participation forms are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/terrificbikes and must be post-marked no later than March 31. Bike recipients will be recognized at the May 4 Mayor and Council meeting. Bikes will be distributed May 18.

Donate bikes to the program by dropping them off from 11 a.m. -2 p.m. on Saturday, March 14 at



Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, or from noon-4 p.m. on Saturday, March 28 at REI, 1701 Rockville Pike (at the rear entrance off Halpine Road).

For more information on the program or donating bikes, visit the website above or call 240-314-8620.

Bikes for the World is a non-profit that repairs used bikes to be shipped to developing countries. Visit www.bikesfortheworld.org or email yvette@bikesfortheworld.org to learn more. ❖

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Snow Emergencies Mean Parking Restrictions

While winter is winding down, March weather can still bring heavy snow to our area. Rockville's snow emergency ordinance states:

- The City Manager may invoke snow emergency parking restrictions.
- Residents with driveways must park all vehicles there.
- Residents without driveways, or who have more vehicles than will fit in the driveway, may park on the even-numbered side of the street only.
- In courts or cul-de-sacs, where house numbers are not even on one side of the street and odd on the other, parking is allowed only on the left side of the streets as one enters the cul-de-sac or court. No parking is allowed in the bulb.
- The City may remove or impound cars improperly parked. A \$100 fine may be incurred for a snow emergency parking violation.

For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather. ❖

Spring Forward and Check Smoke Alarms

Homeowners are reminded to use the beginning of daylight saving on Sunday, March 8 as an opportunity to check their home's smoke alarms while they are setting clocks forward. A working smoke alarm is the best way to be alerted of a fire.

Battery-operated smoke alarms are required to be replaced every 10 years from the date of manufacture in order to comply with a 2013 state law. The devices should also be tested at least once a month.

For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fire-safety or email Timothy Diehl, City fire marshal, at tdiehl@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

Mayor and Council Talk APFS; Animal Control and Pike Plan on Deck

The Mayor and Council heard testimony and discussed a proposed change to the City's Adequate Public Facilities Standards in recent months, before declining to vote on the proposal during their Feb. 9 meeting.

The APFS are designed to ensure adequate public facilities will be in place to serve new development. The proposal considered by the Mayor and Council would have changed the APFS to match Montgomery County's schools test.

The City will participate in a community discussion about development standards, organized

by County Councilmember Roger Berliner, on Saturday, March 7 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, at 4301 East-West Highway in Bethesda. Preregistration is recommended. For more information, call 240-777-7828 or go to www.montgomeryplanning.org.

Other issues for the Mayor and Council in the coming weeks include:

- The animal control ordinance.
- "Rockville's Pike Plan."
- Fiscal Year 2016 budget public hearings and worksessions.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/news. ❖

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Get an update on the projects and the process of building in the City.

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Find festival favorites and newcomers to this year's Hometown Holidays.

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Leaf Collection

Learn when leaves will be vacuumed in your neighborhood.

MAYOR & COUNCIL
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Duball Opening in 2015

After three years of construction, a project by Duball Rockville at 196 E. Montgomery Ave. is expected to open in 2015. The first phase will include a 263-unit residential tower, 140-room Cambria Suites hotel, approximately 17,000 square feet of retail space and 600 parking spaces.

Rendering of the Duball Rockville project.



Twinbrook Station is Growing

The Twinbrook Metro station in Rockville continues its transformation from Metro parking lot to urban center with the opening of The Terano mixed-use apartment building in mid-2015.

Rendering of The Terano apartments.

Containing 214 residential units and 33,000 square feet of retail space, the JBG Companies development is the second phase of the Twinbrook Station planned development, which will ultimately provide 1,500 residential units and 545,000 square feet of office and retail space to the Metro station area.

Engage Rockville

As part of outreach for Rockville's Comprehensive Master Plan update, the City established a civic engagement website, Engage Rockville, to accept input on a wide range of topics related to quality of life and city services today and in the future.

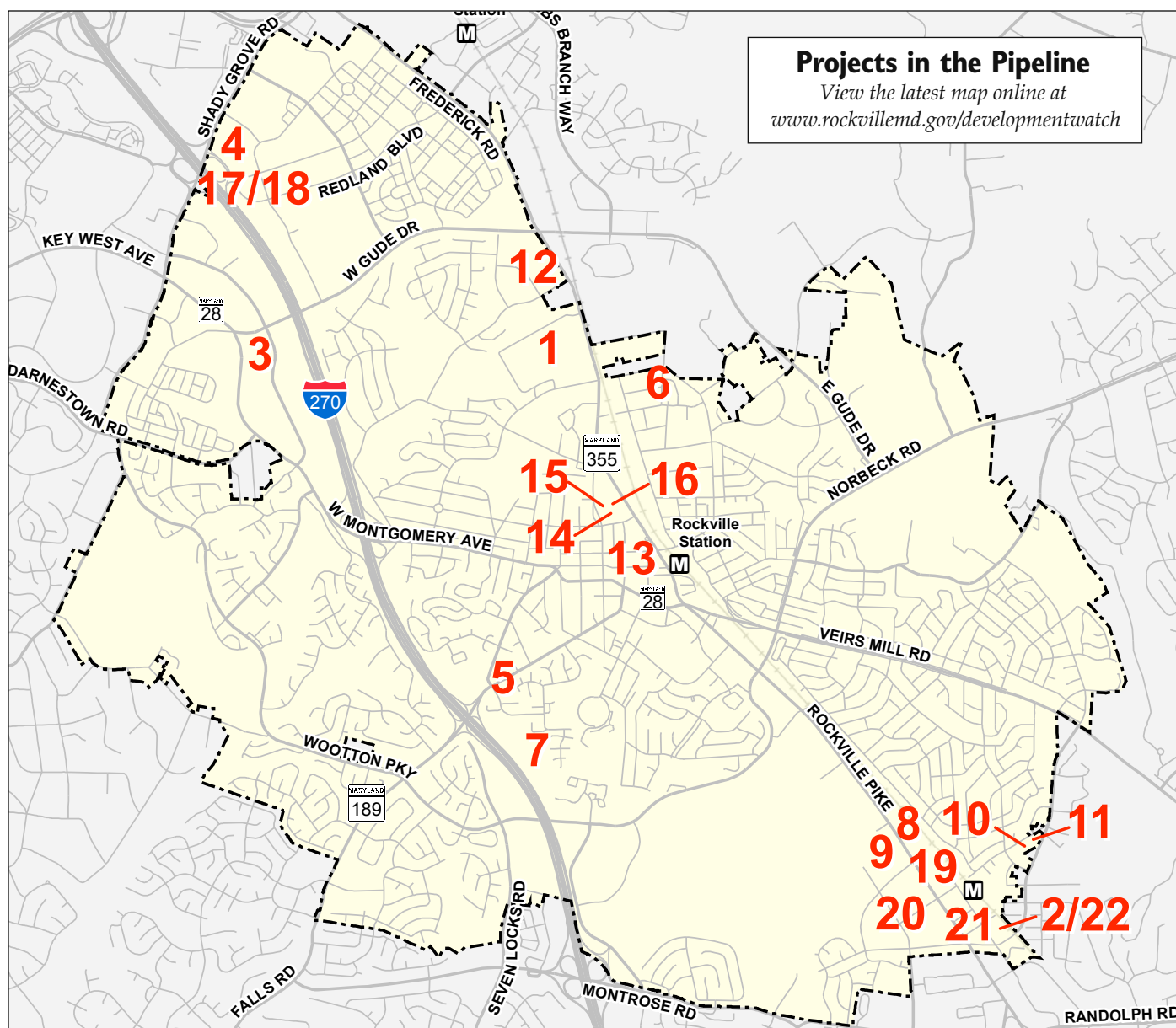
Engage Rockville allows residents and visitors to participate in an online conversation with the City to generate ideas, gather feedback and measure the community's views on a vision for Rockville's future.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/engage to sign up for a free account. New topics are introduced periodically, so be sure to check back regularly.

Know the Process, Stay Informed

- Check the latest applications at www.rockvillemd.gov/developmentwatch for status updates on projects throughout Rockville.
- Attend an area meeting led by project applicants to provide input on projects before they are considered by City boards or commissions.
- Find meeting schedules, agendas and information packets for the Mayor and Council and all City boards and commissions at www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter.
- Call 240-314-8200 to learn about specific projects in your area.

Development Watch



Major Development Review Applications

Pre-Application Submittals

The following applications have been recently submitted to the City for pre-application review:

1. **51 Mannakee St. (Montgomery College – Student Services Center):** Pre-application submittal for a proposed on-campus student service center. File # PAM2015-00080
2. **1900 Chapman Ave.:** Major site plan amendment (STP2012-00112) to change from a 339 multi-unit apartment to 70 town-house units. File # PAM2015-00079
3. **Research Boulevard and Gude Drive (Key West Center at Falls Grove):** Proposed development of two medical office buildings and ancillary retail uses at the corner of Research Boulevard and Gude Drive. File # PAM2014-00069

Applications Under Review

The following applications are currently in development review:

4. **5 Choke Cherry Road (Upper Rock District):** Project plan amendment to allow for the development of 34,700 square feet of retail space on blocks B, C and D of the Upper Rock District. File # PJT2014-00004
5. **626 & 628 Great Falls Road (Chinese Jehovah's Witnesses):** Proposed development of a new place of worship. File # STP2012-00114
6. **900 Westmore Ave. (Church of God Iglesia de Dios of Rockville):** Proposed demolition of an existing church, construction of a new church with additional on-site parking and pedestrian paths. File # STP2014-00193
7. **1235 Potomac Valley Road (Potomac Valley Nursing Home):** Proposed site modifications including expansion of on-site parking. File # STP2013-00164
8. **1450 Rockville Pike (BMW of Rockville):** Proposed consolidation and expansion of the service facility and structured parking. File # STP2013-00165
9. **1451 Rockville Pike (office building):** Proposed site plan amendment to add retail and office to the ground floor of an existing office building. File # STP2014-00209
10. **12720 Twinbrook Parkway (Avalon Twinbrook Station):** Site plan application for a proposed 240-unit multi-family residence. File # STP-2009-00008
11. **12750 Twinbrook Parkway (Bright Horizons Day Care):** Site plan application for the proposed change of use from office to day care. File # STP2015-00234
12. **15190 Frederick Road (M&T Bank):** Proposed development of a walk-in bank with drive-through. File # STP2015-00237

Recently Approved Applications

The following major applications and development projects were recently approved by the designated approving authority and are currently, or soon-to-be, under construction:

13. **198 E. Montgomery Ave. (Duball Rockville):** Project plan application for an amendment to PDP1994-0001E to allow for the addition of 178 dwelling units to block 2 and application of a currently approved non-residential parking waiver to the new residential uses. Approved Dec. 8, 2014. File # PJT2014-00003
14. **255 North Washington St. (Rockville Town Center, LLC):** Site plan application for a proposed development of a mixed use building with 275 dwelling units and approximately 6,000 square feet of street-level commercial. Approved Oct. 22, 2014. File # STP2014-00214
15. **275 N. Washington St. (former Giant):** Level 1 site plan for a two-story building with a bank, office and retail use. Approved June 21, 2013. File # STP2013-00145
16. **285 North Washington St. (Brightview Rockville Town Square):** Site plan application for a 195-unit rental community for independent senior living and assisted living with street-level retail. Approved July 23, 2014. File # STP2014-00189
17. **900 King Farm Blvd. (King Farm F6):** Proposed development of 53 residential townhouses. Approved Dec. 10, 2014. File # STP2014-00217
18. **901 King Farm Blvd. (King Farm F5):** Proposed development of 76 residential townhouses. Approved Dec. 10, 2014. File # STP2014-00216
19. **1592 Rockville Pike (Twinbrook Metroplace):** Project plan for a new mixed-use development with office, retail, restaurant and health club uses, a 200-room hotel and 792 multi-family residential units and site application for phase I of the approved project plan for Twinbrook Metroplace. Approved April 16, 2012 and March 13, 2013. File # PJT2012-00002 and STP2013-00140
20. **1626 East Jefferson St. (Crest II):** Site plan for a multi-family development. Approved Aug. 6, 2014. File # STP2014-00196
21. **1800 Rockville Pike (Twinbrook West):** Site plan for a new mixed-use development with 100,000 square feet of retail and restaurant use and 356 multi-family residential units. Approved March 28, 2012. File # STP2012-00101
22. **1900 Chapman Ave. (former Syms Site):** A mixed-use development with 667 multi-family residential units and approximately 5,000 square feet of non-residential use. Approved Aug. 8, 2012. File # STP2012-00112

Join the conversation with **Engage Rockville**



Sign up today and add your voice to Rockville's future:
www.rockvillemd.gov/engage

Mayor & Council



Mayor
Bridget Donnell Newton



Councilmember
Beryl L. Feinberg



Councilmember
Tom Moore



Councilmember
Virginia D. Onley



Councilmember
Julie Palakovich Carr

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Hearings and Worksessions Begin in March

City Manager to Present Budget Proposal on March 23

As City Manager Barb Matthews prepares to formally introduce her proposed budget, the City recently received news that the property tax base for Fiscal Year 2016 is higher than projected. Matthews is scheduled to present her budget proposal for FY16 and the Mayor and Council are scheduled to hold their first budget worksession on March 23.

Total property tax revenue increased by 5 percent as a result of the most recent round of property assessments in January. Property taxes are the City's largest source of general fund revenue, accounting for more than half of the budget.

In January, the Mayor and Council gave preliminary direction to keep property tax rates flat, to maintain or increase funding for current programs or services, and to address serious infrastructure needs at the Swim and Fitness Center and the King Farm Farmstead. The Mayor and Council also approved moderate increases to water and sewer rates over the next three fiscal years. For details on the new rates, find the agenda for the Jan. 5 Mayor and Council meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter.

All budget hearings and worksessions will be televised live on channel 11 on county cable systems, as part of the regular Mayor and Council meetings, held Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

Meeting coverage is available via live streaming at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11 and available on demand within two days of the meeting date at www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget or call the Finance Dept. at 240-314-8400. To view the budget previews, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter and select the television icon next to the Nov. 26, Jan. 5 and Feb. 9 meeting dates. ❖

FY 2016 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

- Formal introduction of the city manager's proposed budget and Mayor and Council worksession: March 23
- Public hearings and worksessions: March 30 and April 13
- Final public hearing: April 20
- Public record closes: April 21
- Final Mayor and Council worksession: May 4
- Adoption of FY16 budget: May 18

GET INVOLVED

- Sign up to speak at public hearings. Call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of meeting.
- Email written testimony to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- Drop-in sessions with the Mayor and one councilmember are once a month. Find drop-in dates at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil.

Historic District Commission Safeguards Rockville's Heritage

Nearly 50 years ago, the Mayor and Council created the City's Historic District Commission to determine boundaries for districts deemed to be of historic or architectural value to Rockville's history.

In recent years, the commission has published a catalog of Rockville's his-

toric buildings, designated the Glenview Mansion property as a local historic district and worked with City staff to have Rockville join Montgomery County's Heritage Area, which provides access to funding for preservation and heritage tourism.

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Three Mayors: Rockville Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and 2014's essay winners, William Stuart and Allie Coffey, on their day in office at City Hall.

Fourth Graders Invited to Imagine 'If I Were Mayor' in Statewide Essay Contest

Rockville Winner Will Be Mayor for a Day

Calling all Rockville fourth graders! What would you do as mayor when a dispute arises over building a playground in a vacant lot?

Now is the time to share your thoughts in the annual Maryland Municipal League (MML) and Maryland Mayors' Association "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

This year's essay theme is "Respect." Essays of up to 275 words should be submitted to MML, 1212 West St., Annapolis, MD 21401, by March 31.

Contest organizers are asking students to imagine they are mayor of "Happy Town," where plans to transform a vacant lot into a place kids can play has divided the town into two groups. One group wants to see a playground built while the other would prefer a skate park. In the end, the council decides to build the playground. Students should answer the following questions in their essays as if they were mayor:

- How would you get both sides to work together to build the playground?
- What would you do to

keep the citizens and elected officials from being mean to each other because some dislike the final decision?

- What would you do, after the decision is made, to make sure the whole town supports the playground?

One winning essay will be selected from each of MML's 11 regional districts throughout the state. The 11 winners will be recognized at a ceremony in May in Annapolis.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton will select a City of Rockville winner and honorable mentions. The winner will be Rockville's "Mayor for a Day." The honor includes lunch with Mayor Newton, a tour of City Hall and participation in Rockville's Memorial Day Parade.

The essay contest entry form is available at www.mdmunicipal.org (select "Mayor's Essay Contest" under "Programs and Services"). For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280. ❖



Be Part of Rockville's Story

Sign out a camera to record video of Rockville's everyday events, people and places. Complete the participation form at www.rockvillemd.gov/ourtown.

For more information, email ourtown@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8620.

MEETINGS & DROP IN SCHEDULE

All general sessions, worksessions and public hearings are televised on Rockville 11 and are available on streaming video at www.rockvillemd.gov. Residents may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the "Community Forum" portion at most meetings. Meetings are at 7 p.m. and are subject to change.

- **March 2** (Monday)
- **March 9** (Monday)
- **March 16** (Monday)
- **March 23** (Monday)
- **March 30** (Monday)

The mayor and one councilmember are available to meet with residents for drop-in discussions from 5:30-6:30 p.m. one Monday per month in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall. No appointment is necessary, but a call to the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280 is appreciated. Along with Mayor Newton, the councilmember scheduled this month is **Tom Moore** on **March 9**.

IN BRIEF

Special Program Features Rockville, Gaithersburg Officials

"Meet the Mayors," a roundtable discussion featuring Rockville Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, Gaithersburg Mayor Jud Ashman and former Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz, now a member of the Montgomery County Council representing District 3, which includes Rockville and Gaithersburg, continues to air this month on Rockville 11.

Topics discussed by the elected leaders include:

- Transportation, including planning for the county's bus rapid transit system and the draft plan for Rockville Pike

- Diversity
- Schools
- Economic development



LEARN MORE ON CHANNEL 11

Watch online:
youtu.be/8dWg84jZWLg

Sonya Burke, of Montgomery Community Media, moderated the discussion. Watch "Meet the Mayors" throughout March on channel 11 on county cable systems at the following times:

- Sundays: 9 and 11 a.m.
- Mondays and Fridays: 10 a.m.
- Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays: 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 11 a.m.

It is also available on the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.

Mayor and Council Save City \$1.5 Million with Refinancing Plan

Refinancing Bonds Follows Reaffirmation of City's Triple-A Rating

The Mayor and Council recently authorized the City to issue general obligation refunding bonds to refund outstanding debt issued in 2005.

The refinancing takes advantage of low interest rates and is expected to save Rockville about \$1.5 million over the next 10 years. The refunding bonds are not to exceed \$14 million and are to be sold April 13, with the sale closing May 5.

Rockville's financial management policies empower the City to consider refinancing debt when there is a net economic benefit, specifically a savings of at least 5 percent of the refunded debt. In this case, the City is expected to save more than 10 percent of the refunded debt.

Late last year, two rating agencies reaffirmed the City's "triple-A" bond rating and expressed confidence in the City's financial outlook.

The highest possible rating, awarded by Moody's Investor Services and Standard & Poor's, allows Rockville to borrow money at the most favorable rates.

The rating agencies cited the City's conservative fiscal management, its strong policies and practices, ample reserve levels and low direct debt burden.

The affirmation of Rockville's bond rating by Moody's and Standard & Poor's keeps the City among the elite municipalities in the country at the highest rating the agencies provide.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/finance or call 240-314-8400.

IN AND AROUND ROCKVILLE

Rockville Science Day is April 26

Stop by the 26th annual Rockville Science Day to experience science hands-on. Last year, more than 90 exhibitors participated. Sign up to exhibit or volunteer by emailing scienceday@rockville.science.org.

This event is coordinated

by the Rockville Consortium for Science, a program of the Rockville Science Center, and supported by the City of Rockville and Montgomery College.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Rockville Science Day
WHEN: Sunday, April 26, noon-5 p.m.
WHERE: Montgomery College-Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St.
COST: FREE

Register Now for a Spring Break Mini Camp

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade will enjoy supervised programs and participate in crafts, organized games, sports and adventure at Rockville's Spring Break Mini Camps. The programs include field trips. Programs may vary slightly by location. Participants should bring a lunch each day and wear comfortable clothes and sneakers.

- Open to kids age 5-11. April 6-10; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Thomas Farm Community Center (course #50377); \$140 for Rockville residents/\$150 for nonresidents.
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center (course #51019); \$140 for residents/\$150 for nonresidents.
- Lincoln Park Community Center (course #51021); \$140 for residents/\$150 for nonresidents.

Register online via Rock Enroll at rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov or in person at City Hall or City recreation facilities. For more information, call 240-314-8620.

Parking Meter Swipe Cards to Be Phased Out

The City of Rockville is phasing out the use of swipe card readers on City parking meters.

- The last day to reload swipe cards is March 30, 2015.
- Swipe card readers will be removed beginning July 1, 2015.
- To request a refund on any unused balance, bring the card and ID to the cashier's window at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., by Sept. 1, 2015. Refunds will be processed and mailed.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/parking.

New Affordable Rental Housing Opening Soon

Three new rental properties opening in Rockville this spring and summer will include some affordable units under the City's Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program.

The MPDU program allows households at certain income levels to rent units at a reduced monthly rate. The new rental units are located in Rockville Town Center and near the Twinbrook and Shady Grove Metro stations.

Find the program requirements at www.rockvillemd.gov/mpdu or by calling the City's MPDU information line at 240-314-8219. Sign up for email notifications about the program at www.rockvillemd.gov/notifyme.

Connect with us on Social Media.



In The Community



The Rockville City Police Department and Montgomery County Police Department Polar Bear Plunge teams on the beach at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis on Jan. 23.

City Police Take the Polar Bear Plunge and Raise Money

Rockville Police Contributions to Special Olympics Total \$24,000 Over Six Years

Eleven representatives of the Rockville City Police Department plunged into the frigid waters of the Chesapeake Bay on Friday, Jan. 23 to raise money for Special Olympics Maryland through the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge.

This was the sixth year in a row City police took part in the plunge at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. The team raised \$3,230, part of the \$1.5 million this year's plunge has raised so far for Special Olympics Maryland.

Over the past six years,

Rockville police have raised over \$24,000 for Special Olympics Maryland. The department has also sent representatives to the winter and summer games as medal presenters. K-9 Boomer participated in his fourth plunge, raising \$1,695 this year.

Plunge donations are still being accepted. To donate, visit <http://ow.ly/I3ccr> and select the name of the plunger to whom the donation should be credited, or select "general team donation" to support the entire team. ❖

Get Early Start on Earth Month at the County's GreenFest

Films, Kids Activities and 'How-To' Classes Planned for Free Festival

Earth Month is in April, but the Montgomery County GreenFest on Saturday, March 28 offers community members a head start on celebrating the environment and learning the key role each of us play in keeping it healthy.

The free festival is 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus of Montgomery College, at 7995 Georgia Ave., in Silver Spring.

The City of Rockville's Environmental Management Division will be there with Tap-It water bottle giveaways and an exhibit offering simple steps to take to protect Rockville's environment.

GreenFest also will include:

- Screenings of films from the Environmental Film

Festival of the Nation's Capital in the college's Cultural Arts Center theater.

- Kids activities in the Cultural Arts Center's dance room and outside in the nearby Jesup Blair Park, at 900 Jesup Blair Drive, weather permitting.
- Informational, fun "how-to" classes covering a range of green topics.
- Panel discussions and lectures from local and national leaders.
- Exhibits from more than 50 green businesses and nonprofits.
- Music and entertainment.

Find more information at www.montgomerycountygreenfest.org or search #mcgreenfest on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. ❖

Senior Trip Registration Lottery is March 10

Rockville seniors looking for great activities this spring should stop by the Rockville Senior Center at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10 for a lottery to register for a spring trip organized by the center.

From a mystery trip where seniors find out where they're going only once they've arrived, to a dinner theater experience, trips organized by the center are open to center members and non-members. Trips include:

- A Springtime Mystery – Wednesday, April 8.
- "1776" at Toby's Dinner

Theatre – Tuesday, April 28.

- Rawlings Conservatory – Thursday, May 14.
- "The Nerd" at Totem Pole Playhouse – Tuesday, June 9.
- Washington Nationals vs. Atlanta Braves – Thursday, June 25.

Trip registration opens to nonresidents on Friday, March 13. For more information about senior trips, see page 59 in the spring recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide or call the senior center at 240-314-8800. ❖

SAVE-TH-DATE: Earth Month In and Around Rockville

April 22 marks the 5th anniversary of Earth Day. Rockville celebrates with a month of free activities, beginning in March. Mark your calendar for these events:

March 28: GreenFest, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus of Montgomery College, at 7995 Georgia Ave., in Silver Spring. Learn more in the article on this page.

March 28: Earth Hour, 8:30-9:30 p.m. The Mayor and Council are expected to issue a proclamation recognizing the international event that encourages people to turn off all non-essential lights for one hour. Find more information when the March 23 Mayor and Council agenda is posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter and at www.earthhour.org.

April 11: 27th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Stream cleanup sites include:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, 9 a.m.-noon.
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway, 9-11 a.m.
- Maryvale Park, 812 First St., 10 a.m.-noon.

Gloves and bags will be provided. Student Service Learning hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, or to register, email environment@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8877.

April 18: Solar Co-op Information Session, 10 a.m.-noon at the Pepco - Rockville Customer Service Center. See the article on page 5.

April 19: Invasive Plant Pull, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Work with a regional expert to pull invasive plants. Gloves will be provided. No advanced registration necessary. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Call 240-314-8770 for details.

April 25: Spring Festival with Native Plant Sale, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center.

April 26: Science Day, noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College-Rockville, 51 Mannakee St. Be sure to visit the Croydon Creek Nature Center and Environment Commission tables. Free and open to all. Find more information on Science Day at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org and in the article on this page.

Find more details, check out tips for helping the environment year-round and learn how to bring an environmental speaker to your next community meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/earthmonth.

Read April's "Rockville Reports" for a full list of Earth Month events. To learn more about how to get involved and live greener and healthier, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment. ❖

News You Can Use

How to Apply for a Rockville Board and Commission

Community members are encouraged to lend their time and expertise to a City board or commission. Boards and commissions provide the Mayor and Council with informed public opinions, thoughts and ideas that shape the city.

Individuals may serve on only one board or commission at a given time (with the exception of ad hoc committees or task forces) to give as many residents as possible the opportunity to participate.

Vacancies on boards and commissions are listed in the calendar on page 7 in each issue of "Rockville Reports." Anyone employed by or under contract to the City is not eligible to serve on a board or commission.

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission should write to the Mayor and Council, c/o City Clerk, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, or fill out and submit an "Expression of Interest" form. Applicants to the Board of Appeals, Historic District Commission, Ethics Commission, Financial Advisory Board or Planning Commission are required to complete a "Statement of Financial Interests" along with the Expression of Interest.

Find the forms at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

For additional information, call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280. ✚



Summer Playgrounds Bring the Fun to Your Neighborhood

If you're looking for fun and adventure for your kids this summer, sign them up to attend Rockville's Summer Playgrounds program.

This six-week, supervised drop-in recreation program will be offered at 10 locations throughout Rockville neighborhoods.

Kids will enjoy sports, arts and crafts, games, special events and nature activities throughout the summer. The program is a great value for your

family and offers kids a chance to hang out with neighborhood friends and meet new ones.

Experienced, fun and creative leaders will work to ensure all kids in the

program have a great time.

Two locations provide before- and after-care—Twinbrook Elementary School and Elwood Smith Community Center. Those programs are open from 8-9 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. Attendees must register for the playground program at those locations to

be eligible for before- and after-care.

In addition to attending the playground program, children can also register for "extras," including

swimming, tennis, mini-golf or a trip to an amusement park.

Learn more and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/summerplaygrounds or call 240-314-8620. ✚

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: Summer Playgrounds

WHEN: Monday - Friday, June 22-July 30, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (extended hours available at two sites)

AGES: 6-12 (children must have completed kindergarten to attend)

COST: \$150 Residents/\$230 Non-Residents (for the full six weeks)

REGISTRATION: Begins April 1

Rockville Police Offer Off-Leash Testing

Dogs Must Be Recertified Annually to Walk Without a Leash in the City

Rockville police will offer off-leash testing at 10 a.m. in the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center parking lot, at 355 Martins Lane, on the following Saturdays:

- March 21
- May 16
- July 18
- Sept. 19
- Nov. 21

Dogs must be leashed or restrained whenever they are off their owner's property, unless the owner and dog have passed the City's Off-Leash with Permission test.

The cost is \$5 per dog.



Dogs must have a current Rockville dog license in order to take the

test. Dogs that pass the test may be walked without a leash in the city. Dogs and owners must be recertified each year. There is no charge for recertification.

Preregistration is required. Call 240-314-8937.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/offleash. ✚

INFO. AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Join Rockville Homeowners in Going Solar

The Rockville Environment Commission is organizing a neighborhood solar co-op. By going solar together, participants save up to 30 percent on the cost of a solar system and have the support of the group throughout the process. Learn more at an information session:

- Saturday, April 18

10 a.m.-noon

Peppo - Rockville Customer Service Center
201 West Gude Drive

This is a great opportunity to go solar, get a discount, and be part of the growing solar movement.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solarhomes or email environment@rockvillemd.gov.

Rockville Hosts Free Tax Preparation Appointments

The City of Rockville is hosting free tax preparation sessions throughout tax season for families who earned less than \$53,000 in 2014.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which is run by the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, provides IRS-certified professionals and volunteers to help low- to moderate-income families maximize their tax refunds and credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Appointments are available from 4-7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month through April 1 at Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

Schedule an appointment and find more information, including a list of additional locations, at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/freetaxhelp, or by calling 311, 240-777-1123, TTY 301-251-4850 or Maryland Relay 711.

To learn more about volunteering opportunities with VITA, call 240-777-1123, or email VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Rockville's Spring and Summer Recreation Programs

- **Spring Sports Leagues** – Register now at www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports
 - **Spring Recreation Classes and Programs** – Registration begins March 17 at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide
 - **Summer Camps** – Register now (early bird discount through April 8) at www.rockvillemd.gov/camps
 - **Summer Playgrounds Program** – Registration opens April 1 at www.rockvillemd.gov/summerplaygrounds
- For more information, call the Recreation and Parks Department at 240-314-8620.

Commission Safeguards Rockville Heritage

continued from pg. 3...

Commission Chair Joseph Hansen, who has volunteered as a commissioner since 2010, said the body's recent decision to preserve some buildings on the King Farm Farmstead and recommend them for reuse shows the commission's work as the voice of historic preservation in the city. He added that it is a "plus" for the five commissioners when the community provides feedback and gets involved in the commission's work.

"When you get the community involved and caring about a certain issue, a certain building, or a certain area they want to preserve, that's when it's really rewarding," Hansen said.

Some of the commission's duties are:

- Safeguarding Rockville's heritage by preserving districts that reflect the city's cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history.
- Stabilizing and improving property values within these districts.
- Promoting the use and preservation of historic districts for the education, welfare and pleasure of Rockville residents.

This time of year, the commission helps Rockville homeowners apply for historic preservation tax cred-

its through Montgomery County and the state, for improvements homeowners have made to preserve their properties. The program is an incentive for homeowners to maintain historic properties' significance and character within their neighborhoods.

Much of the commission's work involves evaluating whether property owners can demolish buildings. In recent years, commission members have visited civic association meetings to hear what community members want to see from the commission.

Hansen thanked City planning staff for their work with the commission. Commissioners care deeply about preserving the City's historic properties, he said. "The city should know they have great passionate people on the commission, experts in their fields, who are always willing to help a historic property owner when they come and ask for guidance."

The commission meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are televised on Rockville 11 (cable channel 11). Find agendas at www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter and watch meetings live or on demand at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11. ✚

THINGS TO DO IN ROCKVILLE

Apply Now for a Spot in the Memorial Day Parade

Rockville's 71st Annual Memorial Day Parade will march through Rockville Town Center with a variety of marching bands, drill and majorette units, floats and other displays on Monday, May 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Organizations or individuals interested in participating in the parade should apply by Friday, April 3. Rockville's parade is a juried event, with more than \$3,000 in cash prizes expected to be distributed over five parade categories.

Candidates for Rockville Mayor and Council offices may participate in the parade if they are certified to appear on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors of Elections by May 15. Other elected officials may also apply to participate.

Learn more about the parade, download parade rules and regulations and the parade application at www.rockvillemd.gov/hometownholidays.

Train for a Job at the Swim and Fitness Center

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center offers lifeguard and swim instructor training throughout the spring as it gears up for the summer swim season.

Taking a lifeguard training course and becoming certified is the first step toward a job as a lifeguard. The center offers several lifeguard training courses this winter and spring. Find schedules and registration forms at www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6477.

Participants must be 15 years old to take the course. The Thursday evening lifeguard training class runs from March 19 through May 14 (course #49939). Another class is offered during spring break for Montgomery County Public Schools, April 6-10 (course #49938).

The center offers courses April 11-12 and May 9-10 for lifeguards in need of recertification. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

The City is currently hiring lifeguards, swim instructors, front desk and support staff for the summer season. Training for swim instructors begins in March and continues until the start of the summer session. Front desk staff and slide attendants must be at least 16 years old to apply.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center offers flexible scheduling, competitive pay rates, and free memberships for employees. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/careers to learn more and apply. For more information, call 240-314-8750 or email swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov.

ROCK YOUR SUMMER!

CAMPS OPEN TO ALL METRO AREA FAMILIES



- Over 65 camps from June 15-Aug. 19
- Before and after care; transportation
- One and multi-week options
- Open to ages 3-16
- Register now for best rate. Early bird discount ends April 8

www.rockvillemd.gov/camps
240-314-8620

Arts & Entertainment

Theater Presents 'Haddon Hall,' Music by American Composers and Stand-Up Comedy

A beautiful ballet, an opera, concert band music to take pride in and jokes by a scientist-turned-comedian will delight audiences this month at Rockville's F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Start March off right by catching one of the last performances of Victorian Lyric Opera Company's production of "Haddon Hall." This opera, by Arthur Sullivan and Sydney Grundy, dramatizes the legend of Dorothy Vernon's elopement with John Manners, resetting the tale in the 17th century. Performances are Sundays, March 1 and 8 at 2 p.m.; and Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7 at 8 p.m.

Tickets: Adults \$24; seniors (65 and older) \$20; students \$16.

On Saturday, March 14 at 8 p.m., get ready for a creative blend of stand-up comedy and science as Tim Lee puts on his show, "Scientist Turned Comedian." Lee's performances have sold out venues from Melbourne, Australia to New York.

Tickets are available at www.rockville2015.bpt.me. Reserved seats \$42; general admission \$25; students with ID \$9.

On Sunday, March 15 at 3 p.m., enjoy favorites by American composers as the Rockville Concert Band

presents "An American Collage." No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation. For more information, call 240-314-8681.



The Rockville Civic Ballet will present acts three and four of "Swan Lake" on Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m.

The ballet tells the story of Odette, a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse. A performance of "Satie Suite," a colorful abstract ballet, will follow.

Tickets: Adults \$17; seniors (60 and older) and children (12 and under) \$13. Group rates available.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is a 446-seat performing arts venue that regularly hosts diverse performances by community theater groups and professional touring companies. Plays, musicals, dance, opera, children's theater and more provide Rockville and area residents many reasons to return.

The theater is located in Rockville Civic Center Park, at 603 Edmonston Drive. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre or by calling the box office at 240-314-8690. ✦



Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Features Free Monthly Art Exhibitions

Annual Student Art Show: Feb. 22- March 5

- Featuring works by Rockville students in grades K-12.

April Exhibition Opening Reception and Concert: Sunday, March 29, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

- Artwork by Jorge Bernal, Alexey Zoob and Strings and Things.
- Concert by Barbara Martin and Robert Redd at 2 p.m.
- Gallery hours: Monday, Wednesday,



Friday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Located at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/glenviewgallery or call 240-314-8682. ✦

The Stage is Set for Hometown Holidays

Start your summer off with a Rockville tradition this Memorial Day weekend, as entertainers from around the country descend on Town Center for the City's 27th annual Hometown Holidays music fest.

Hometown Holidays will feature performances by more than 30 groups on four stages on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24.

Festival favorites returning this year include Kelly Bell Band, The Nighthawks, Lloyd Dobler Effect and Jah Works. New acts include Emily Hearn, a folk-pop artist from Georgia; Driven to Clarity, an acoustic/rock/funk band; and Fiction 20 Down, a Maryland reggae/ska group.

Event organizers are also preparing for a great Taste of Rockville, featuring food from local restaurants, kids amusements (including the return of "the beach" sand pile) and the 71st Annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade on Monday, May 25.

Festivalgoers can take Metro to the Rockville

station to get to Hometown Holidays. If you are driving or biking, parking will be available in the City Hall lots, at the Montgomery County Council office building

garage on Fleet Street and in Metro lots.

Find all the information you need at www.rockvillemd.gov/hometownholidays or on the Hometown Holidays Facebook page, which will reveal a new musical act weekly with its "Music Mondays" posts. ✦

2015

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND



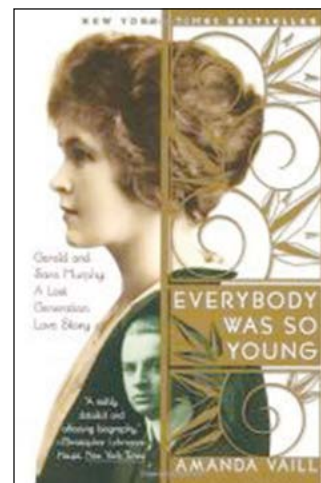
Fitzgerald Evenings of Literature Continue on March 24

Featuring "Everybody Was So Young" by Amanda Vaill

Rockville offers a literary experience taking readers back to the 1920s as Jackson Bryer and Eleanor Heginbotham, from the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival, lead a discussion of "Everybody Was So Young: Gerald and Sara Murphy, A Lost Generation Story," by Amanda Vaill. Vaill chronicles famous residents of the 1920s Riviera and Paris, including the "enchanted" Murphys, close friends of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald and models for the fascinating Divers of "Tender is the Night."

The Fitzgerald Evenings of Literature series offers a chance to travel back in time at the elegant, historic 1926 Glenview Mansion, with its formal gardens in the picturesque, 153-acre Rockville Civic Center Park.

- Tuesday, March 24; 7-9 p.m.



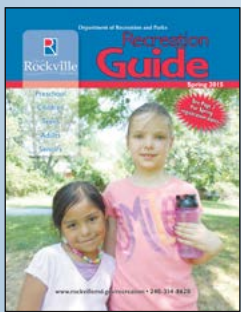
Novel by Amanda Vaill.

- Conservatory of Glenview Mansion.
- Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Cost is \$10. Light refreshments will be served. To make a reservation, contact Betty Wisda, arts programs supervisor, at 240-314-8681 or bwisda@rockvillemd.gov. ✦

FACILITIES ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

- **Glenview Mansion Art Gallery** **GM**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre** **FSF**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.
- **Croydon Creek Nature Center** **CC**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 852 Avery Road. Note: Registration is required, register online at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8770.
- **Rockville Senior Center** **SR**, 1150 Carnation Drive. Call 240-314-8800.
- **Rockville City Hall** **CH**, 111 Maryland Ave. Call 240-314-5000.



Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Find something that interests you at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide.

- **1 Scout Badge Day: Webelos Geologist Badge** Naturalists will help you complete the necessary requirements to achieve the badges. Program held rain or shine. Dress for the weather. Pre-registration required. 2-4 p.m. Call 240-314-8771. **CC**

March Calendar

R = Residents • NR = Non Residents • MEM = Member • NM = Non Member

- **1,8 “Haddon Hall,”** presented by Victorian Lyric Opera Company See article on page 6. 2 p.m. **FSF**

- **2 “Rockville’s Pike Plan” Mayor and Council Worksession** See article on page 1. 7 p.m. **CH**

- **4,18 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** Free income tax preparation appointments for families that earned less than \$53,000 in 2014. See article on page 5. 4-8 p.m. **CH**

- **5 “Rockville’s Pike Plan” Mayor and Council Public Hearing** See article on page 1. 7 p.m. **CH**

- **7 Open Fire Meals** Learn how to make a meal over the campfire and enjoy a delicious lunch. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required. All ages. \$12 R/\$14 NR. Register for course #49931. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. **CC**

- **6,7 “Haddon Hall,”** presented by Victorian Lyric Opera Company See article on page 6. 8 p.m. **FSF**

- **10 Senior Spring Trips Lottery Registration** See article on page 4. 10:15 a.m. **SR**

- **14 Nature Tots: Fur and Feathers** A naturalist will help children explore the topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. Adult participation is required. Pre-registration strongly recommended. \$8 R/\$10 NR. Register for course #49914. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

- **14 Tim Lee: “Scientist Turned Comedian”** See article on page 6. 8 p.m. **FSF**

- **15 “An American Collage,”** presented by Rockville Concert Band See article on page 6. 3 p.m. **FSF**

- **15 Bookworms: “Extraordinary Egg”** Read a new story and get a copy of the book to keep. May include a craft or hike. Adult participation required. Spaces limited. Ages 2-5. \$10 R/\$12 NR. Register for course #49927. 3:30-4:15 p.m. **CC**

- **18,25 Rockville Business Academy** Businesses and people interested in doing business in Rockville have the opportunity to learn more about what the City has to offer. For more information, call Hjarman Cordero at 240-314-8344. 8:30-10:30 a.m. **CH**

- **19 Nature Tots: Amphibians** A naturalist will help you explore the topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. Adult participation is required. Pre-registration strongly recommended. \$8 R/\$10 NR. Register for course #49915. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

- **19 Lifeguard Training Class** American Red Cross Lifeguard Training course will certify students in Lifeguard Training, CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, and First Aid. 15 years or older (proof of age required). Space is limited. A detailed course schedule/syllabus will be provided on the first day. Attendance is mandatory. Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane. 7-10:30 p.m.

- **21 Off-Leash Testing** Rockville Swim and Fitness Center parking lot, 355 Martins Lane. See article on page 5. 10 a.m.

- **21 “Swan Lake,”** presented by the Rockville Civic Ballet See article on page 6. 7:30 p.m. **FSF**

- **21 Breakfast with the Bunny** Activities include a puppet show, spring crafts, games, an opportunity to meet, greet and pose with the bunny, and an egg hunt. A light continental breakfast will be served. Preregister for course #49105 (includes breakfast) or, for \$5 at the door, watch the puppet show and participate in the egg hunt. Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

fast will be served. Preregister for course #49105 (includes breakfast) or, for \$5 at the door, watch the puppet show and participate in the egg hunt. Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

- **22 “Swan Lake,”** presented by the Rockville Civic Ballet See article on page 6. 2 p.m. **FSF**

- **24 Fitzgerald Evening of Literature “Everybody Was So Young: Gerald and Sara Murphy, A Lost Generation Story.”** See article on page 6. 7-9 p.m. **GM**

- **26 Montrose Discovery Preschool Open House** Meet teachers with years of experience, take a tour, have all of your questions answered in person and pick up a registration form for Fall 2015. Montrose Discovery Preschool, 451 Congressional Lane. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

- **27 Survival Skills** Spend the afternoon learning basic outdoor skills. End the day by making a survival bracelet to take home. All ages. \$15 R/\$18 NR. Register for course #49988. 1-4 p.m. **CC**

- **27 Lincoln Park Community Center Family Bingo Night** See the ad on page 8. 7 p.m.

- **29 Glenview Art Gallery April Exhibition Opening Reception and Concert** See the article on page 6. 1:30-3:30 p.m. **GM**

Boards and Commissions

Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted. Please check the City website for the latest on cancellations, rescheduling and contact information at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

- **4 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee** 7 p.m. Meets the first Wednesday of the month.

- **5 Environment Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the first Thursday of every month.

- **10 Human Services Advisory Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the second Tuesday of the month.

- **11,25 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

- **11 Cultural Arts Commission** 7 p.m. Meets the second Wednesday of the month.

- **14 Board of Appeals** 9 a.m. Meets the second Saturday of the month and is televised on Rockville 11.

- **17 Rockville Seniors Inc.** 1 p.m. Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

- **18 Rockville Housing Enterprises** 6:30 p.m. Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 621-A Southlawn Lane.

- **19 Historic District Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of the month.

- **19 Senior Citizens Commission** 1 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of the month at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

- **24 Traffic and Transportation Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

- **25 Human Rights Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month.

- **26 Recreation and Park Advisory Board** 7 p.m. Meets the fourth Thursday of the month.

Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Cultural Arts Commission (2)
- Environment Commission (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (1)
- Historic District Commission (1; alternate)
- Human Rights Commission (3)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (1)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Commission (2; alternates)
- Personnel Appeals Board (3)
- Recreation and Parks Advisory Board (1)
- Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc. (1)
- Rockville Sister City Corporation (1)
- Senior Citizens Commission (1)
- Traffic and Transportation (1)

Family Bingo Night

Join the fun as we play a game of **BINGO!** We will provide you with all the tools, just bring your good luck and try to win some cool prizes. Refreshments will be sold.

Friday, March 27, 7-8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5 for Rockville residents / \$7 for non-residents
Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.

City of Rockville
Get Into It

240-314-8780
www.rockvillemd.gov/lpcc

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTING, VISIT WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV

Programas Recreacionales, Preparación Gratuita de Impuestos y Vivienda Asequible

El siguiente es un resumen de las historias primordiales de esta edición de “Rockville Reports”:

Los programas Recreacionales de primavera y verano ofrecen Deportes, Campamentos y Parques Infantiles

La matrícula para algunos programas recreacionales de primavera y de verano ya están empezando, y empezará pronto para otros:

- **Ligas de deportes de primavera:** Matricúlese ahora. Visite www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports para mayor información.
- **Clases y programas recreacionales de primavera:** Las matrículas se inician el 17 de marzo. Visite www.rockvillemd.gov/guide para mayor información.

- **Campamentos de verano:** Matricúlese ahora para aprovechar el descuento de matrícula adelantada que hay hasta el 8 de abril. Visite www.rockvillemd.gov/camps para mayor información.
 - **Programa de Parques Infantiles:** Las matrículas se inician el 1ro de abril. Visite www.rockvillemd.gov/summer-playgrounds para mayor información.
- Para mayor información, llame al Departamento de Recreación y Parques al 240-314-8620.

Rockville Ofrece Preparación Gratuita de Impuestos con o sin cita previa.

Los Programas Están Buscando Voluntarios para Ayudar con La Preparación de Impuestos.

La Ciudad de Rockville ofrecerá pre-

paración de impuestos gratuita durante la temporada de declaración de impuestos a familias que ganaron menos de \$53,000 en el 2014.

Las citas se encuentran disponibles de 4-7 pm el primer y el tercer miércoles del mes hasta el 1ro de abril en la Municipalidad de Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave.

Saque una cita u obtenga más información, incluyendo una lista de lugares adicionales, en www.montgomerycountymd.gov/freetaxhelp o llamando al 311, 240-777-1123, TTY 301-251-4850 o a Maryland Relay 711.

Pronta Apertura de Nuevas Viviendas de Alquiler Asequibles

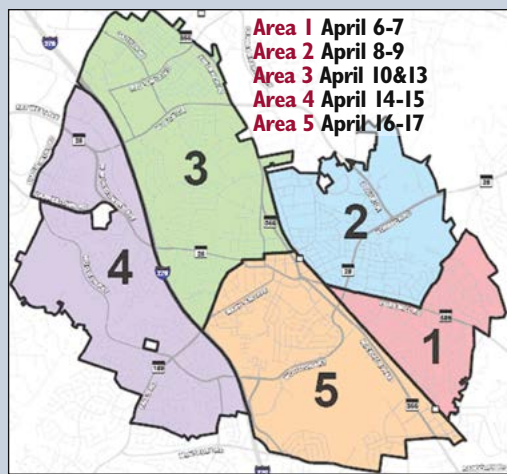
Las tres nuevas propiedades de

alquiler en Rockville esta primavera y este verano incluirán unidades a precio mensual reducido. Bajo el programa de la Ciudad de Unidades con propiedad a bajo costo (siglas en Ingles: MPDU). Las nuevas unidades en alquiler se encuentran ubicadas en Rockville Town Center y cerca de las estaciones de metro de Twinbrook y de Shady Grove.

Halle los requisitos del programa en www.rockvillemd.gov/mpdu o llamando a Servicios de Planeamiento y Desarrollo de la Comunidad al 240-314-8200.

Para mayor información en español visite www.rockvillemd.gov y diríjase a la casilla que dice “Seleccione Idioma” en la parte inferior de la esquina derecha de la página. ❖

IN BRIEF



Spring Leaf Collection Takes Place in April

Online Interactive Map Shows Neighborhood Collection Dates

The City will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs throughout April.

Residents should rake leaves into the gutter or immediately adjacent to the pavement if no curb or gutter exists. Leaves can be raked any time immediately before or during collection week.

Spring collection will take place April 6–17 in five collection areas throughout Rockville. To find out when your neighborhood collection will be, see the map on this page or use the interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection, which allows residents to input their address to learn when leaves will be collected in their neighborhood.

- DO: Place leaves at the curb by 6 a.m. on the collection dates. Sticks and all other objects must be removed from the leaf piles.
- DO NOT: Use plastic bags. Biodegradable paper lawn bags are acceptable.
- DO: Use alternatives methods for disposing of leaves such as mulching or composting.
- DO NOT: Dump leaves, grass clippings or other yard waste into storm drains, along stream banks or directly into streams.

After the collection dates, leaves may still be set out in paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans with yard waste on your collection day.

For more information on this and other refuse issues, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse.

Rockville's Neighborhood Resources Division, the Rockville Chamber of Commerce and Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) present the

Rockville Business Academy

Giving businesses the tools they need to thrive in Rockville.

March 18 and 25, from 8-10:30 a.m.

Mayor and Council Chambers, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

Led by City staff, this free program features:

- ✓ City demographics
- ✓ Planning and development services
- ✓ Recycling and refuse for businesses
- ✓ Best environmental practices for your business
- ✓ Keeping your business and employees safe
- ✓ Commercial code enforcement
- ✓ How to do business with the City

Register at www.rockvillechamber.org.

For more information, contact Hjarman Cordero at 240-314-8344 or hcordero@rockvillemd.gov.

Neighborhood Notes

Meet Your Neighbor: Rockville's Ballet Instructors

For a trio of City ballet instructors, coming up through Rockville's ballet program helped them become more confident and gave them an outlet for their creativity.

Kathryn Chongpinitai remembers her grandparents taking her to see Rockville Civic Ballet shows as a young child, which inspired her.

"I saw these women on stage in pointe shoes and elaborate costumes and I thought that's really what I want to do," she said.

Today, Chongpinitai enjoys teaching 3-year-old ballet students. Though they don't understand all of ballet's technical terms, they are "sponges" and pick up on a lot in class.

"Just getting them excited about dancing and movement across the stage, it's great," said Chongpinitai, who is an accountant by day.

Eleanor Simpson enjoys teaching beginning adult



Left to right: Erin Kwong and Eleanor Simpson. Inset: Kathryn Chongpinitai.

ballet students as much as teaching children. Some of her students perform in the Rockville Civic Ballet, a volunteer organization of 75 adult and children dancers under the direction of Claudia Mangan. The ballet performs a spring and summer production each year as well as "The Nutcracker" each December.

"Where else can you start ballet when you're 40 and get to perform? That's so awesome," Simpson said.

Simpson started in ballet classes at age 3, following in

her older sister's footsteps. Ballet taught her time management, as she often attended classes and rehearsals several times a week while preparing for performances. She learned to appreciate balancing priorities while focusing on ballet.

For Erin Kwong, a student at the University of Maryland, College Park, dancing in the civic ballet helped her come out of her shell and become a more confident person. Performing and teaching classes has been a "fantastic and rewarding experience," she said. She often signs autographs for children after a performance, only to see them enroll in her class the following season. ✦

Meet Your Neighbor is a regular feature in Rockville Reports and on Rockville 11 highlighting the unique individuals that make our community a special place. To suggest someone for a future episode and article, email meetyourneighbor@rockvillemd.gov.

City's Matching Grant Program Strives to Support Community Involvement

April 15 is the Deadline for ROC-N Grant Applications

Neighborhood associations could receive up to \$1,000 in a matching grant for projects promoting community involvement.

Applications are being accepted through Wednesday, April 15 for Rockville's Organizing Communities and Neighborhoods (ROC-N) Matching Grant Program. The program strives to support and empower neighborhood associations and encourage participation by community members. Projects must address one or more of the following:

- The acquisition of technology or supplies that directly support an existing community program.

- Neighborhood crime prevention.
- Neighborhood outreach and organizing.
- Neighborhood planning.
- Neighborhood preservation.
- Social events aimed at fostering a sense of community pride.

Qualified organizations could receive up to \$1,000 annually and must provide a cash or in-kind match equal to or greater than the grant amount requested. Applications are accepted twice a year, in April and October. Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Funding is limited.

Projects are evaluated

based on the neighborhood's ability to provide the required funding match, the level of community involvement, project readiness and the tangible neighborhood benefit.

The ROC-N Matching Grant Program is built on the premise that people who live in a neighborhood are its most valuable resource and are best able to identify the community's needs and make improvements or devise solutions to problems.

Find more information and applications at www.rockvillemd.gov/ROC-NGrant or call 240-314-8340. ✦



"On the Go: Pike and Car Culture," part of Peerless' "Modern Living" series.

Explore Lincoln Park, the Pike and Rockshire in Peerless' "Modern Living" Series

Peerless Rockville's "Modern Living for a Modern City" series returns in April with a series of presentations and guided walks through neighborhoods whose post-World War II population booms created Rockville's lasting communities.

Save the following dates as researchers, historians and planners offer a glimpse into the early development and growth of the following:

- **Lincoln Park** on Saturday, April 11 from noon-2 p.m. at the Lincoln Park Community Center. Judy Christensen will be the speaker.
- **Rockville Pike** on Saturday, April 25. 10 a.m.-noon in the Rockville Senior Center dining room. Historian Teresa Lachin offers a colorful tour of images, photos and maps of Rockville Pike's car culture and the roadside retail strip in "On the Go: Pike and Car Culture."
- **Rockshire** on Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Rockshire Community Room, 2351 Wootton Parkway. Robin D. Ziek, an architect and historic preservation professional and former planner with the City of Rockville, presents "Rockshire: Environmental Planning of Suburbia."

"Modern Living for a Modern City" events are free and open to all. Peerless Rockville is a nonprofit that works in partnership with the City of Rockville to preserve buildings, objects and information important to Rockville's heritage. To learn more, visit www.peerlessrockville.org or call 301-762-0096. ✦



Get Into It

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